

Maintaining Efficiency, Fairness, and Security at the Polls: Report on the First Year of the Elections Integrity Unit



**Secretary of State Jason Kander
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Dear Fellow Missourians,

As secretary of state, I am committed to ensuring that all eligible Missouri voters are able to cast ballots in the most secure and efficient way possible. Maintaining the security of our elections and increasing access for voters is essential to the preservation of our representative democracy.

Last November, I announced the establishment of the Elections Integrity Unit to ensure that our elections remain fair, open and accurate by providing greater oversight and more transparency. Over the past year, this unit, housed in the Elections Division of my office, has responded to over 97 complaints and assisted local prosecutors with elections-related issues. As a result of this success, the unit will continue to serve voters and maintain the integrity of Missouri elections throughout my administration.

I am pleased to present this overview of the work accomplished in the first year of the Elections Integrity Unit.

Sincerely,

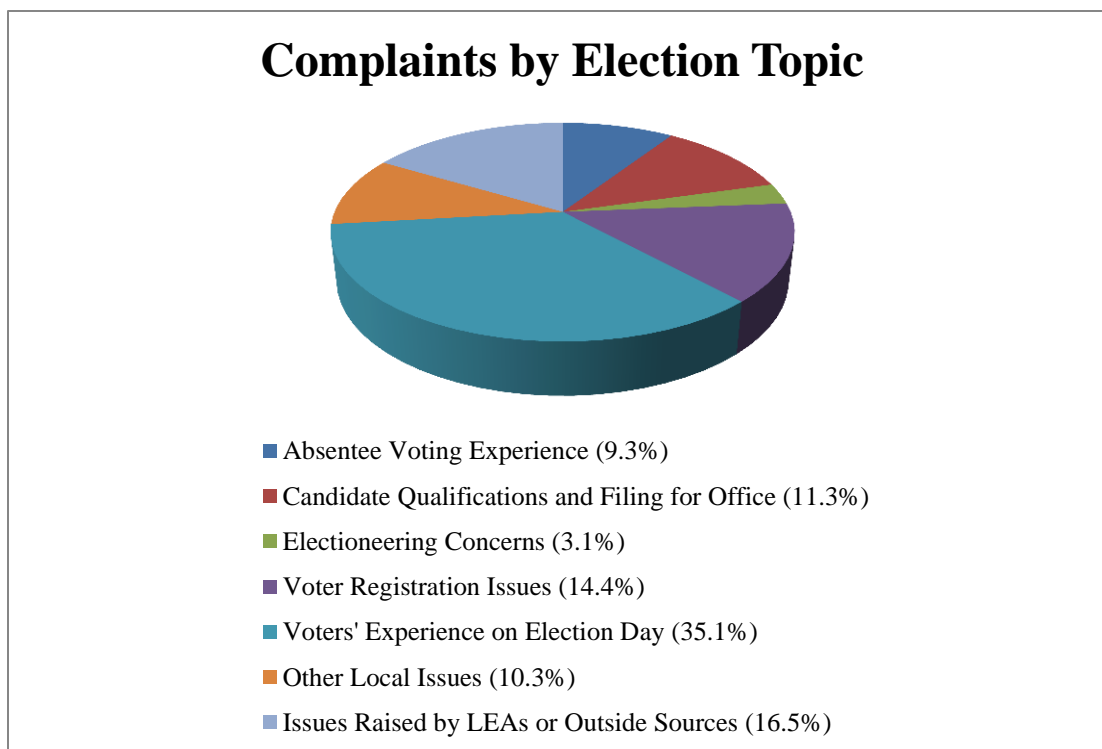
Jason Kander
Missouri Secretary of State

Overview of the First Year of the Elections Integrity Unit

Missourians trust the secretary of state's office and local election authorities to keep our elections efficient, secure and accessible. To that end, since taking office, Secretary of State Jason Kander has created and implemented several improvements to the elections process, including a system for eligible Missouri voters to fill out their voter registration application online, an electronic portal to facilitate voting for military voters, a public comment period for initiative petitions and the establishment of the Elections Integrity Unit.

The integrity of Missouri elections is borne from the active participation of our voters and the hard work of election authorities across the state. These voters communicate elections-related concerns and questions to the secretary of state's office and Missouri's local election authorities. Secretary of State Jason Kander created the Elections Integrity Unit in 2013 to ensure these issues are handled appropriately and in a timely manner.

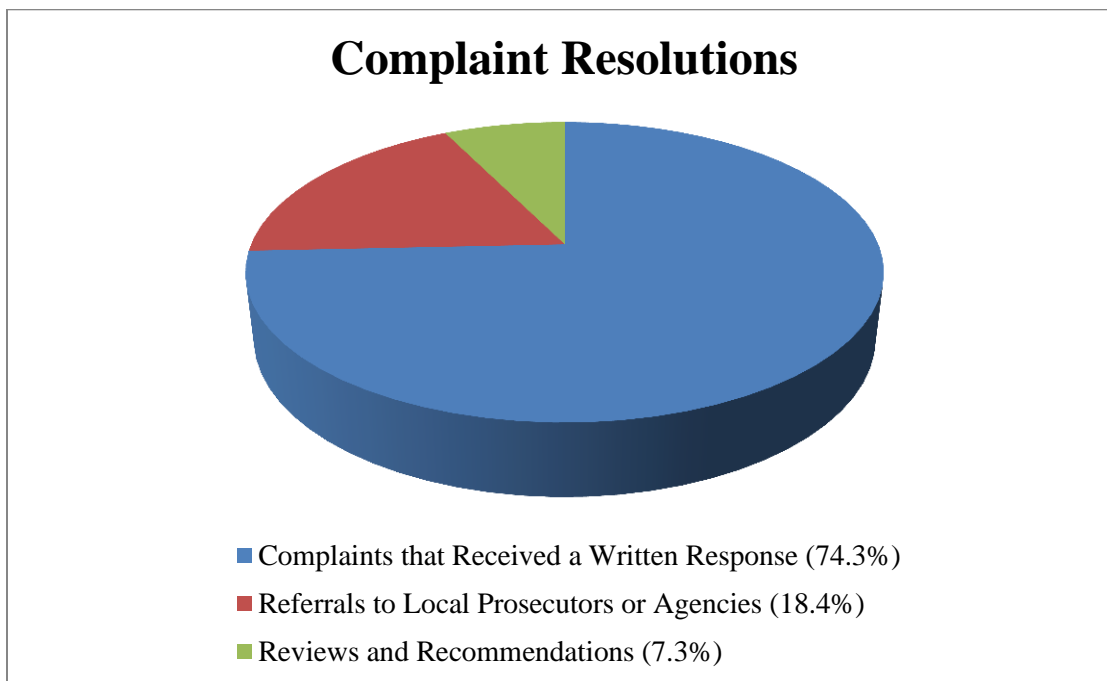
Complaints submitted to the Elections Integrity Unit in 2013 and 2014 pertained to a number of election topics, including absentee voting, candidate qualifications and filing, voter registration issues, and voters' experiences on election day. Each of these topics relates to an integral part of the voting process. Ensuring the voting process is implemented correctly and efficiently protects the integrity of the entire election process.



Each complaint received by the unit is thoroughly reviewed and researched, and appropriate action is taken. Each complainant receives a written response summarizing the resolution of the issue and the response often provides additional information to the complainant to further pursue

his or her concern. Over the past year, the unit has reviewed and responded to 97 complaints from Missourians and local election authorities in 48 counties. As a result, 20 complaints have been referred to local prosecutors or agencies and eight have initiated in-depth reviews and recommendations from the secretary of state's office. These reviews and referrals are also posted on the Unit's webpage at http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/elections_integrity/reviewed.asp.

At least one referral has led to the successful prosecution of an election law violation, resulting in the revocation of voting rights of two individuals that had improperly registered to vote.



**Complaints that led to a referral or review also received a written response*

The work of the Elections Integrity Unit continues to increase the transparency, security and efficiency of the elections process in Missouri. The success of this unit has led to the creation of the Elections Integrity Task Force, which is comprised of local, state and federal law enforcement and election authorities in order to open lines of communication and establish protocols about election issues, including those received by the unit. The task force and the unit will continue to work so voters can be confident in the reliability of Missouri's elections.